

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/784,655	HILDEBRAND, VOLKER	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven D. Maki	1733	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Steven D. Maki. (3) _____.

(2) John Miller. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 30 November 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1 and 31.

Identification of prior art discussed: art of record including Jaan 913 (JP 6-55913) and Emerson (US 5,421,387).

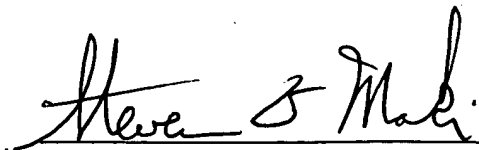
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant faxed a proposed amendment to claim 1 to the examiner. See Interview Summary Attachment. Discussed exclusion of lateral grooves reaching the circumferential grooves. With respect to claim 1, discussed "having" and "comprising" and "each". Examiner noted that the proposed amendment fails to exclude other lateral grooves reaching the circumferential grooves. Discussed grooves in Japan 913 and Emerson. Discussed rib width in related art figure 1 of Emerson. Examiner made the following proposal: With respect to claim 1 in the amendment filed 5-24-06, after "inner lateral grooves," on line 10 insert --wherein no lateral groove in the inner shoulder rib reaches the inner circumferential groove--, after "outer lateral grooves," on line 14 insert --wherein no lateral groove in the outer shoulder rib reaches the outer circumferential groove--, and after "void volume ratio" on line 18 (last line) insert --and wherein each circumferential groove is a substantially straight groove having substantially straight edges--. Examiner also proposed changing title to --Radial tire with tread pattern having four or five circumferential ribs-- and changing "curves" on last line of claim 31 to --grooves--. Examiner also suggested amending the specification to provide literal antecedent basis for the proposed claim language. Examiner commented that the proposed added subject matter is supported and reasonably conveyed by the original disclosure including figure 2 and the "but not all the way to" language in the original specification at paragraph 18. .

Interview Summary Attachment

NOV. 16. 2006 12:02PM

CALFEE HALTER GRISWOLD

NO. 0188 P. 1.

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Facsimile Cover

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To: Examiner Steven D. Maki
Fax Number: 1-571-273-1221
Send Only to the Above Fax Number: x
Confirmation Phone Number:

From: John E. Miller
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Client Number: 18894 **Matter Number:** 04911 **Client Name:** Continental

Number of Pages: 3

Message: Please consider the attached claim amendment, which tracks the language used in your Office action of August 10.

Please also note the attached copy of Fig. 2 of the cited Lopez 652 design patent, which shows that the inner and outer treads define lateral grooves which reach and join the corresponding inner and outer circumferential grooves.

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Interview Summary Attachment

NOV. 16. 2006 12:03PM

CALFEE HALTER GRISWOLD

NO. 0188 P. 2

SN 10/784,655

Response to Office Action of August 10, 2006

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

1. (Currently amended) A pneumatic tire having a tread defining an inner shoulder, an outer shoulder and a tread pattern therebetween, the tread pattern comprising an inner circumferential groove, an outer circumferential groove and at least one intermediate circumferential groove therebetween, the circumferential grooves dividing the tread into four or five circumferential ribs including inner and outer shoulder ribs, inner and outer intermediate ribs between the shoulder ribs and an optional central rib between the intermediate ribs,

the inner shoulder rib having ~~inner lateral grooves, each inner lateral groove~~ extending from the inner shoulder toward but not reaching the inner circumferential groove, the inner shoulder rib having multiple sipes which are arranged between adjacent pairs of ~~inner lateral grooves, wherein none of the lateral grooves in the inner shoulder reaches the inner circumferential groove,~~

the outer shoulder rib having ~~outer lateral grooves, each outer lateral groove~~ extending from the outer shoulder toward but not reaching the outer circumferential groove, the outer shoulder rib also having multiple sipes which are arranged between adjacent pairs of outer lateral grooves, wherein none of the lateral grooves in the outer shoulder reaches the outer circumferential groove,

wherein the width of at least one shoulder rib is between about 17% and about 19% of the width of the tread, and further

wherein the tread defines a void volume ratio and a land-sea surface area ratio, the land-sea surface area ratio being about 4-8% larger than the void volume ratio.

Interview Summary Attachment

NOV. 16. 2006 12:03PM

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NO. 0188 P. 3

LOPEZ 652

inner lateral grooves

FIG. 2